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THOMAS HOXIE
NOVARTIS, CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ONE HEALTH PLAZA 430/2
EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936-1080

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In re Application of :
Blank et al. :
Application No. 10/701,698 :
Filed: November 5, 2003 : ON PETITION
Attorney Docket No. N-32769A :

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

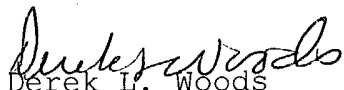
This is a decision in response to the Petition to Correct Filing Date, filed February 27, 2004, which is properly treated under 37 CFR 1.10(c), requesting the application be accorded a filing date of November 5, 2003, instead of the presently accorded filing date of November 4, 2003.

Petitioner alleges that the application was deposited in Express Mail service on November 5, 2003. In support of the allegation, the petition is accompanied by a copy of Express Mail label No. EV335544995US. Although the "Date In" indicated on the Express Mail label is November 4, 2003, the Express Mail Label is properly addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, and the Express Mail label contains a United States Postal Service (USPS) stamp of November 5, 2003. The same Express Mail label number was placed on the original application papers located in the official file.

In view of the above, the petition is granted. No fee is necessary.

This application is being forwarded to the Office of Initial Patent Examination for correction of the filing date to November 5, 2003.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-0014.


Derek L. Woods

Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions